IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) An AV apparatus designed to control apparatuses and having a plurality of connection terminals to which the apparatuses can be selectively connected wherein predetermined identifiers are allocated to the connection terminals, respectively, each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order based, at least in part, on the respective predetermined identifier.

2. (Amended) The AV apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each identifier ~~is~~ comprises characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

3. (Original) The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior to the any other of the at least: two apparatuses, which is not designated by the identifier.

4. (Original) The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

5. (Original) The AV apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated,

the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to the connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated.

6. (Original) The AV apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.

7. (Amended) A method of controlling an AV apparatus having a plurality of connection terminals to which a plurality of apparatuses can be connected~~, thereby~~ to control the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals comprising: ~~, wherein identifiers are allocated~~

allocating predetermined identifiers to the connection terminals, respectively, each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses; and

~~so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled~~

controlling the apparatus in a priority order, wherein the priority order is based, at least in part, on the predetermined identifiers.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein ~~each identifier is~~ the allocating predetermined identifiers further comprises allocating an identifier that comprises characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, ~~wherein when~~ the controlling further comprises controlling at least two apparatuses that are connected to the same connection terminal, and further comprising:

selecting one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, ~~is selected~~ prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is not designated by the identifier.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the controlling further comprises controlling ~~when~~ at least two apparatuses that are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one

of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to the connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated.

12. (Original) The method according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus terminals that comply with :IEEE 1394 standards.

13. (Amended) An AV apparatus network system comprising a plurality of AV apparatuses and a control apparatus having a plurality of connection terminals to which the AV apparatus can be connected, wherein predetermined identifiers are allocated to the connection terminals, respectively, each for designating a specific one of the apparatuses so that the apparatuses connected to the connection terminals are controlled in a priority order based, at least in part, on the respective predetermined identifier.

14. (Amended) The system according to claim 13, wherein each identifier comprises ~~is~~ characters or a symbol that indicates a model number or type of the apparatus, and any apparatus designated by the identifier is controlled prior to any other apparatuses.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses, which is designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, is selected prior to the any other of the at least: two apparatuses, which is not designated by the identifier.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 14, when at least two apparatuses are connected to the same connection terminal and designated by the identifier allocated to the connection terminal, one of the at least two apparatuses directly connected to the connection terminal is selected prior to the any other of the at least two apparatuses, which is indirectly connected to the connection terminal.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein when an apparatus designated by a specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated, and an apparatus designated by the specific identifier is connected to an connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to a connection terminal to which an identifier different from the specific identifier is allocated, the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is allocated is selected prior to the apparatus connected to the connection terminal to which the specific identifier is not allocated or to the connection terminal to which an identifier different from the: specific identifier is allocated.

18. (Original) The system according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the connection terminals are serial bus terminals that comply with IEEE 1394 standards.

19. (New) A controller comprising:

a plurality of connection terminals to which respective apparatus may be selectively connected, each connection terminal having a respective predetermined identifier assigned thereto, the identifier designating a type of apparatus to be connected to its corresponding connection terminal; and

a control circuit configured and arranged to assign a device type indicator and a priority to a connected apparatus, based, at least in part on the predetermined identifier.